

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-2 and 4-22 were pending prior to the final Office Action. Claims 15, 16 and 17 are cancelled and claims 23-24 are added through this reply. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4-14 and 18-24 are pending. Claims 1, 14 and 23 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 1-2 and 4-13 are indicated as being allowed. Applicants further appreciate that claims 17, 18 and 21 are indicated as including allowable subject matter. *See Final Office Action, items 18 and 19.*

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 18 and 19 are objected to for informalities. *See Final Office Action, items 4 and 5.* These claims are amended as suggested to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 18 and 19 be withdrawn.

§ 102 REJECTION – CARLTON

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Carlton (U.S. Patent 6,667,930). *See Final Office Action, items 7-10.*

As noted above, the Examiner indicates that claim 17 includes allowable subject matter. In this reply, independent claim 14 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 17 as well as the features of the intervening claims 15 and 16. Therefore, claim 14 is now allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – CARLTON, YOSHIOKA

Claims 16, 19-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Carlton in view of Yoshioka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,075,899). *See Final Office Action, items 13-17.*

As indicated above, independent claim 14 is amended to be allowable. As part of the amendment process, claim 16 is cancelled. Claims 19-20 and 22 depend from independent claim 14 directly or indirectly. Therefore, for at least due to the dependency thereon, claims 19-20 and 22 are also allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 16, 19-20 and 22 based on Carlton and Yoshioka et al. be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

In this reply, claims 23 and 24 are added. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 21 includes allowable subject matter. Independent claim 23 includes the features of independent claim 14 and claim 21 as well as the features of the intervening claims 15, 16, 19 and 20. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable. Claim 24 depends from independent claim 23. Therefore, for at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 24 is also allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the new claims 23 and 24 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

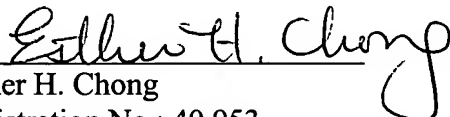
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Since the present Amendment reduces the issues for the appeal and/or places the application into condition for allowance, entry of the present Amendment is deemed proper and respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02?2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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